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EXAMINER

ROMERO, ALMARI DEL CARMEN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 05/27/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/401,382

Applicant(s)

HSU ET AL.

Examiner

Almari Romero

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed on 2/25/03.
2. The objection to the specification has been withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
3. The rejection of claims 1-17 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements as been withdrawn based on Applicant's remarks on page 5 of the amendment filed on 2/25/03.
4. The rejection of claim 26 as required by 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph as been withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
5. The rejection of claim 26 as required by 35 U.S.C. 101 as been withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
6. Claims 1-26 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 7, 9, 18, 20, and 26 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

7. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-25 set forth non-functional descriptive material but fail to set forth physical structures or materials comprising of hardware or a combination of hardware and software within the technological arts (i.e. a computer) to produce a "useful, concrete and tangible" result. For example, Claims 1, 7, and 9, the "system" reads on a mental construct/abstract idea or at best a computer program, per se. Claims 18 and 20, the "method" reads on a mental process or abstract idea. The language such as "static hyperlinking", "partial

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hyperlinking”, “dynamic hyperlinking”, “anchor generator”, “semi-link generator”, “source identifier”, “link management”, etc., does not clearly define structural elements and are not tangibly embodied on a computer readable medium.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. **Claim 1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodkin et al. (USPN 6,092,074 – filing date: 02/1998) in view of Liu et al. (USPN 5,794,257 – filing date 08/1998).**

Regarding independent claim 1, Rodkin et al. (Rodkin) discloses:

A generalized automatic hyperlinking system comprising:

source-level partial hyperlinking (on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches finding best destination address for linkage);

source-level dynamic hyperlinking (on col. 2, lines 42-58 and col. 3, lines 26-34: teaches dynamic linking);

static hyperlinking (on col. 2, lines 17-29 and lines 42-58: teaches static linking)

However, Rodkin does not explicitly disclose, “intermediate links” and “incremental hyperlinking”.

Liu et al. (Liu) on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches chain links (intermediate links) and on col. 2, lines 6-14: teaches hyperlink incrementally.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin to provide a way to chain links and link incrementally, as taught by Liu, incorporated into the hyperlinking process of a document, as taught by Rodkin, in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

10. **Claims 2-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodkin and Liu as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Sotomayor (USPN 5,708,825 – issued on 01/1998), and further in view of Chang (USPN 5,694,594 – issued on 12/1997). Regarding dependent claim 2, Rodkin and Liu disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. Rodkin discloses:**

wherein said source-level partial hyperlinking comprises: an initial semi-link generator (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches finding best destination address for linkage).

However, Rodkin and Liu do not disclose “a source identifier” and “a source anchor generator”.

Sotomayor on col. 1, lines 59-65: teaches identifying source of hyperlink, on col. 6, lines 7-17 and lines 31-40: teaches source anchor.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Sotomayor into Rodkin-Liu to provide a way to identify source of the hyperlink and to generate source anchors for automatically generating hyperlink in which will enhance the browsing of hyperlinks over the network.

However, Rodkin, Liu, and Sotomayor do not explicitly disclose "link management".

Chang on col. 6, lines 25-51: teaches link manager.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link manager to manage within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding dependent claim 3, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. Chang discloses:

a link browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 7: teaches link browsing); and

a document browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 - col. 4, line 7: teaches document browser).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link browser and document browser within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding dependent claim 4, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. However, Liu discloses:

an intermediate destination identifier (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches chain links (intermediate links) from identifying destination);

a destination identifier (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches identifying destination address).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Sotomayor-Chang to provide a way to

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chain links and identifying the destination during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

However, Rodkin, Liu, and Sotomayor do not explicitly disclose "final link generator".

Chang on col. 6, lines 52-65: teaches final link generation.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide final link generation during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document in order to interactively complete the generation of links.

Regarding dependent claim 5, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Liu discloses:

an intermediate anchor generator (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches generating chain links (intermediate links) which link my comprise anchor);

an intermediate link generator (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches generating chain links (intermediate links)).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Sotomayor-Chang to provide a way to generate chain links with anchors during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

Regarding dependent claim 6, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Chang discloses:

a link database (Chang on col. 9, lines 50-56: teaches link database).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link database for storing links during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document which will provide an efficient hypertext system associating hypertext links with stored attributes.

Regarding independent claim 7, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Rodkin discloses:

A generalized automatic hyperlinking system comprising:

an initial semi-link generator (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches finding best destination address for linkage); and

a source identifier, a source anchor generator (Sotomayor on col. 1, lines 59-65: teaches identifying source of hyperlink, on col. 6, lines 7-17 and lines 31-40: teaches generating source anchor).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Sotomayor into Rodkin-Liu-Chang to provide a way to identify source of the hyperlink and to generate source anchors for automatically generating hyperlink in which will enhance the browsing of hyperlinks over the network.

However, Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor do not explicitly disclose "link management".

Chang on col. 6, lines 25-51: teaches link manager.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link manager to manage within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

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Regarding dependent claims 8 and 17, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Chang discloses:

a link browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 7: teaches link browsing); and

a document browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 - col. 4, line 7: teaches document browser).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link browser and document browser within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding independent claim 9, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. However, Sotomayor discloses:

A generalized automatic hyperlinking system comprising:

a source identifier, source anchor generator (Sotomayor on col. 1, lines 59-65: teaches identifying source of hyperlink, on col. 6, lines 7-17 and lines 31-40: teaches source anchor).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Sotomayor into Rodkin-Liu-Chang to provide a way to identify source of the hyperlink and to generate source anchors for automatically generating hyperlink in which will enhance the browsing of hyperlinks over the network.

an intermediate destination identifier (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches chain links (intermediate links) from identifying destination);

a destination identifier (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches identifying destination address).

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It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Sotomayor-Chang to provide a way to chain links and identifying the destination during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

However, Rodkin, Liu, and Sotomayor do not explicitly disclose “final link generator”.

Chang on col. 6, lines 52-65: teaches final link generation.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide final link generation during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document in order to interactively complete the generation of links.

However, Rodkin, Liu, and Sotomayor do not explicitly disclose “link management”.

Chang on col. 6, lines 25-51: teaches link manager.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link manager to manage within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding dependent claim 10, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Liu discloses:

an intermediate anchor generator (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches generating chain links (intermediate links) which link my comprise anchor);

an intermediate link generator (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches generating chain links (intermediate links)).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Sotomayor-Chang to provide a way to generate chain links with anchors during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

Regarding dependent claim 11, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Chang discloses “link management”:

Chang on col. 6, lines 25-51: teaches link manager.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link manager to manage within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding dependent claim 12, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Chang discloses:

a link database (Chang on col. 9, lines 50-56: teaches link database).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link database for storing links during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document which will provide an efficient hypertext system associating hypertext links with stored attributes.

Regarding dependent claim 13, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Rodkin discloses:

an initial, intermediate, and final semi-link generator (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches finding best destination address for linkage to generate linkable character string).

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Regarding dependent claim 14, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. Chang discloses:

a link browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 7: teaches link browsing); and

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link browser within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding dependent claim 15, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. Chang discloses:

a document browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 - col. 4, line 7: teaches document browser).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link browser within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding dependent claim 16, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. However, Rodkin, Sotomayor, and Chang do not explicitly disclose “link interpreter”.

Liu on col. 2, lines 65-67: teaches link interpreter.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Sotomayor-Chang to provide a link interpreter within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to perform to proper actions when user clicks on a hyperlink.

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Regarding claims 17 - 25, the limitations of claims 17 - 26 are a method for processing in the system of claims 2 -16 and are rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding independent claim 26, the limitations of independent claim 26 comprises the same limitations of claims 2 -16 and is rejected under the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed on 2/25/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

A) Regarding Applicant's remarks on page 6:

Referring to 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection, claim 1 and similar claims appear to be non-functional and clearly do not define structural elements. These claims are interpreted as software per se, abstract ideas or mental construct and not tangibly embodied on a computer readable medium, therefore, not statutory.

B) Regarding Applicant's remarks on page 7:

Applicant cites refers to the application describing that "static hyperlinking" is described as to a "batch-mode" execution of incremental, dynamic hyperlinking". Static hyperlinking can be fairly interpreted within the scope of the art of Rodkin on col. 2, lines 42-58: disclosing static linking. The "batch-mode execution of incremental, dynamic hyperlinking" language is not disclosed in the claims and the Examiner cannot find this language within the specification. Therefore, Applicant's argument is not commensurate with the claimed invention.

C) Regarding Applicant's remarks on page 8:

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Rodkin discloses "static links" for all available information and wherein the developer can use hyperlinks to establish connections for the links that remain static (on col. 2, lines 17-29 and lines 42-58). Liu "intermediate links" on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches chain links needed to go from the component number in the text to the component number in the table to the part-list document number..., in other words, is going from one component to another until it reaches the actual part-list document.

D) Regarding Applicant's remarks on page 10:

Chang does disclose a "link manager" on col. 6, lines 25-51: teaches created links are sent to a link manager with a generated link profile containing information such as link types, e.g., graphics, textual, audio, etc. Chang also discloses an automatic link generation process.

Conclusion

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

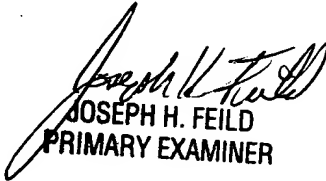
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Almari Romero whose telephone number is (703) 305-5945. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays - Fridays (7:30am - 4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (703) 308-5186. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

AR
May 16, 2003


JOSEPH H. FEILD
PRIMARY EXAMINER